



## Commissioner's Corner

### July 2023

**Q. On the accreditation applications, are labs supposed to enter continuing education for people with ACHI certification?**

A. The answer for the most part is no. If your laboratory staff member is certified by the ACHI, then our accreditation manager, Melissa Weeks, will verify the currency of the staff members' ACHI credentials and will, helpfully, let the commissioners know approximately which percentage of the staff is certified.

As a refresher, in the ASHI Accreditation standards, Standard E.7 requires all staff to have the minimum CECs outlined in the ARB Operations Manual. The ARB Operations manual spells out the continued education requirements in Chapter C, Section X (found on page 67 of the 2022 Version of the ARB OPS manual):

- A. Current ACHI certification, though not required, will be accepted as documentation of compliance with the continuing education requirement. This is verified by the Accreditation Manager.
- B. For full and part-time technical staff not currently ACHI certified, the continuing education requirements shall be relevant to the areas of Accreditation and will use real hours for the calculation. The total number of continuing education hours shall be:
  - i. Directors/Technical Supervisor 50 hours per year
  - ii. Clinical Consultants 12 hours per year
  - iii. General Supervisor 27 hours per year
  - iv. Technologists/technicians 12 hours per year
  - v. Director in Training 27 hours per year (off-site CEU's)
- a. The Director in Training may receive many "education" hours during the course of the training. However, at least 27 hours must be from seminars, workshops, lectures, etc. outside of the laboratory.
- C. A minimum of 50% of these hours must be directly related to the science and application of histocompatibility and/or immunogenetics testing

However, there is one specific instance when the laboratory will have to provide continuing education documentation for laboratory staff members, even when they are certified by the ACHI. If the laboratory's general supervisor has a CHT certification, the annual requirement for that ACHI re-certification breaks down to 20 hours (60 hours for a 3-year period). As seen in section B.iii, shown above, the requirement for general supervisor is 27 hours. Therefore, if your lab has a general supervisor that has a CHT certification, sufficient evidence of the required 27 continuing education hours must be submitted, even though that person has an ACHI certification. Please keep that in mind when preparing your lab's accreditation application.